

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ In combination, a vessel, comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least ~~[[one]]~~ a first submergible at least partially hollow body comprising at least one closed ballast tank of adjustable ballast; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body below the vessel such that the or each first body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel,

the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suspended from substantially opposite respective sides of the vessel, wherein a top of the suspending means of the first stabilizer assembly is ~~directly~~ connected to a top of the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly by a connection which is structurally separate from the vessel.

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2. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein the first stabilizer assembly further comprises:

~~a first submergible at least partially hollow body and a second submergible at least partially hollow body~~ ~~[[;]]~~ suspended from the first body

~~first suspending means for suspending the first body from the vessel; and~~

~~second suspending means for suspending the second body from the first body.~~

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 further comprising a third stabilizer assembly, the third stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least ~~[[one]]~~ a first submergible at least partially hollow body: and
suspending means extendable below the water line for suspending the or each first body of the third stabilizer assembly from the vessel.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 4 wherein the first stabilizer assembly is suspended near the bow of the vessel on one side, the third stabilizer assembly is suspended near the stern of the vessel on said one side and the second stabilizer assembly is suspended amidships on the other side of the vessel.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 4 wherein the third stabilizer assembly comprises:

~~a first submergible at least partially hollow body and a second submergible hollow body~~ suspended from the first body of the third stabilizer assembly~~[[;]]~~

~~first suspending means for suspending the first body from the vessel; and
second suspending means for suspending the second body from the first body.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 4 further comprising a fourth stabilizer assembly, the fourth stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least ~~[[one]]~~ a first submergible at least partially hollow body; and
suspending means extendable below the water line for suspending the or each first body of the fourth stabilizer assembly from the vessel.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 7 wherein the first stabilizer assembly is suspended near the bow of the vessel on one side, the second stabilizer assembly is suspended near the bow of the vessel on the other side, the third stabilizer assembly is suspended near the stern of the vessel on said one side and the fourth stabilizer assembly is suspended near the stern of the vessel on the other side.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according claim 1 wherein the suspending means is capable of bearing high tension loads.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 9 wherein the suspending means is capable of bearing tension loads of more than one hundred times the loads it is capable of bearing in compression.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 9 wherein the suspending means comprises elongate flexible members.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 11 wherein the elongate flexible members are chains.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each body is of elongate shape and has a cross-sectional area greater than 4 m^2 .

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each body comprises one or more closed or closable spaces having a combined volume of more than 50 m^3 .

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein the or each ballast tank is separately ballastable.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each stabilizer assembly further comprises at least one fin projecting from the or each first body.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 17 wherein the at least one fin is pivotable relative to the or each first body to restrict movement of the body upwardly through water more than downwardly.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each first body is substantially prism shaped.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each first body has a circular cross section.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each first body has a rectangular cross section.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each first body has a square cross section.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein each first body has a triangular cross section.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1 wherein one or both ends of each first body is substantially conical.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1, further comprising one or more saddles for attaching to a hull of the vessel, to support the suspending means.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination according to claim 1, in which only vertical loads are arranged to be transferred from the suspending means to the vessel.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reducing vessel motion comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body including at least one closed ballast tank of adjustable ballast; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body below the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel,

the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suitable for locating at substantially opposite portions of the vessel, wherein a top of the suspending means of the first stabilizer assembly is directly connected to a top of the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly by a connection which is structurally separate from the vessel.

29. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body is of elongate shape and has a cross-sectional area greater than 4 m^2 .

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body comprises one or more closed or closable spaces having a combined volume of more than 50 m^3 .

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein the or each ballast tank is separately ballastable.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 wherein each stabilizer assembly further comprises at least one fin projecting from the or each body.

34. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the at least one fin is pivotable relative to the or each body to restrict movement of the body through water in one direction more than in another direction.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 30 wherein each body is substantially prism shaped.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a circular cross section.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a rectangular cross section.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a square cross section.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein each body has a triangular cross section.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 28 wherein one or both ends of each body is substantially conical.

41. - 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A vessel ~~comprising~~ in combination with a stabilizing apparatus according to claim 30.

44 – 54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing motion of a water-borne vessel comprising:

suspending at least two at least partially hollow bodies each comprising at least one ballast tank below the vessel from substantially opposite sides of the vessel by [[a]] respective first and second suspending means, wherein which extend below the water line, and further including the steps of connecting the first and second suspending means are directly connected to each other by a connection

which is structurally separate from the vessel, and varying the ballast in the ballast tank in accordance with changes in wave characteristics.

56 - 57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) **[[A]]** In combination, a vessel, comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body comprising at least one closed ~~or closable~~ space of adjustable ballast;

saddles which increase the width of the vessel; and

elongate flexible suspending means extendable beneath a water line of the vessel for suspending the or each body below the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line, ~~of the vessel,~~ the elongate flexible suspending means being capable of bearing tension loads of more than one hundred times the loads it is capable of bearing in compression,

each stabilizer assembly being arranged to apply via its suspending means a downwardly directed force on a side of the vessel from which it is suspended when the side of the vessel moves upwards,

the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suspended from substantially opposite sides of the vessel in association with the saddles, wherein the saddles are arranged to transfer the downwardly directed forces from the elongate flexible suspending means to the vessel.

59. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ In combination, a vessel, comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body with a volume of more than 50m^3 , the hollow body comprising at least one closed ballast tank of adjustable ballast; and

suspending means extendable below a water line of the vessel for suspending the or each body from the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line ~~of the vessel~~, the suspending means being capable of bearing tension loads of more than one hundred times the loads it is capable of bearing in compression,

the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suspended from substantially opposite sides of the vessel,

the vessel further comprising one or more saddles for attaching to a hull of the vessel such that a width of the vessel is increased, the saddles arranged to support the suspending means such that the saddles transfer loads from the suspending means to the ~~[[vessel]]~~ hull.

60. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination as claimed in claim 59, wherein each body is substantially prism shaped.

61 – 62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination as claimed in claim 59, wherein each body has a circular cross section.

64. (Currently Amended) ~~A vessel~~ The combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vessel includes a deck, the suspending means of the first stabilizing assembly being connected to the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly proximate a center of the deck.

65. (New) In combination, a vessel, a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body comprising at least one ballast tank; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body below the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel,

the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suspended from substantially opposite sides of the vessel, wherein a top of the suspending means of the first stabilizer assembly is directly connected to a top of the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly, and each stabilizer assembly further comprises at least one fin projecting from the or each body.

66. (New) The combination according to claim 65 wherein the at least one fin is pivotable relative to the or each body to restrict movement of the body upwardly through water more than downwardly.

67. (New) An apparatus for reducing vessel motion comprising a first stabilizer assembly and a second stabilizer assembly, each stabilizer assembly comprising:

at least one submergible at least partially hollow body including at least one ballast tank, wherein the or each body comprises one or more closed or closable spaces having a combined volume of more than 50 m³; and

suspending means for suspending the or each body below the vessel such that the or each body is fully submerged below the water line of the vessel,

the first and second stabilizer assemblies being suitable for locating at substantially opposite portions of the vessel, wherein a top of the suspending means of the first stabilizer assembly is directly connected to a top of the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly, and each stabilizer assembly further comprises at least one fin projecting from the or each body.

68. (New) An apparatus according to claim 67 wherein the at least one fin is pivotable relative to the or each body to restrict movement of the body through water in one direction more than in another direction.